

PATENT APPLICATION

**RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR §1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
TECHNOLOGY CENTER ART UNIT 1791**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Yumi TODA et al. Group Art Unit: 1791

Application No.: 10/522,011 Examiner: C. LOPEZ

Filed: April 5, 2005 Docket No.: 122141

For: METHOD OF MANUFACTURING POROUS CERAMIC BODY

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION AFTER FINAL REJECTION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the August 6, 2008 Office Action, reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested in light of the following remarks.

The courtesies extended to Applicants' representative during the November 5, 2008 interview are appreciated. The substance of the interview is incorporated in the following remarks.

The Office Action rejects claims 6-10 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) or (b) over U.S. Patent No. 6,287,510 to Xun. During the interview, the express definition of "time at which the binder burnt out" given at page 18, lines 5-14 was discussed. In view of this definition, it was agreed that the §102 rejections over Xun would be withdrawn.

Additionally, Applicants provide the following reason why it would not have been obvious to modify Xun in a manner that resulted in the claimed invention. Xun discloses at,

e.g., col. 9, line 46 through col. 10, line 59 that the temperature should be increased at particular rates in a range lower than 500 °C, and later "held" at higher temperatures. There is no teaching or suggestion of any holding of the temperature at the lower ranges at which the start of combustion would normally occur, and no recognition of a benefit to be gained by so doing. Thus, one of ordinary skill in the art would have understood that the temperate should be increased at a constant rate up to the higher temperatures.

In contrast, Applicants have recognized an advantage to be gained by holding the temperature in the range claimed (see, e.g., page 4 of Applicants' specification).

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims.

Request for IDS Acknowledgement

An Information Disclosure Statement with Form PTO-1449 was filed in the above-captioned patent application on January 21, 2005. A copy of that IDS and Form PTO-1449 are present in the image file wrapper on PAIR. Applicants have not yet received from the Examiner a copy of the Form PTO-1449 initialed to acknowledge the fact that the Examiner has considered the disclosed information. The Examiner is requested to initial and return to the undersigned a copy of the Form PTO-1449.

* * *

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: November 6, 2008

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